

Pending Claims

1. (Previously amended): A silent chain and sprocket assembly comprising:
 - a sprocket having a plurality of low profile protrusions extending outwardly from said sprocket at locations spaced along an outer periphery of the sprocket;
 - a silent chain having a series of inner link rows lying along a chain direction and a series of outer link rows, an outer link row between adjacent inner link rows and interleaved at opposite ends of the outer link row along the chain direction with the adjacent inner link rows;
 - adjacent inner and outer link rows are joined to each other by members extending through interleaved portions of adjacent inner and outer link rows to form a rotatable joint between the adjacent inner and outer link rows;
 - the links of said inner and outer link rows form a surface that extends along the chain direction of the links a distance that approximates the distance from a center of a member joining the link to one adjacent row of links to a center of a member joining the link to another adjacent row of links, overlies the sprocket protrusions and contacts said low profile protrusions along at least the majority of the length of the surface for driving contact with the low profile protrusions; and
 - the link surface extending along the chain direction a distance substantially the length of the link along the chain direction.

2. (Original): The silent chain and sprocket assembly of claim 1 wherein the surface of the links that is sized to overlies the low profile protrusions of the sprocket is at a back-side of the chain.

3. (Original): The silent chain and sprocket assembly of claim 2 wherein the links have a surface that defines two teeth extending from the link at a front-side of the chain.

4. (Original): The silent chain and sprocket assembly of claim 1 wherein the surface that overlies the sprocket protrusions extends along the chain direction of the links a distance that approximates the distance from a center of a member joining the link to one adjacent row of links to a center of a member joining the link to another adjacent row of links.

5. (Previously amended): A silent chain and sprocket assembly comprising:

a front-side sprocket, said front-side sprocket having a plurality of teeth spaced about an outer periphery of said front-side sprocket;

a back-side sprocket, said back-side sprocket having a plurality of low profile protrusions spaced about an outer periphery of said back-side sprocket;

a silent chain having a front-side and a back-side, said front-side of said chain engaging said front-side sprocket and said back-side of said chain engaging said back-side sprocket;

the chain having link plates forming inner and outer link rows, said inner and outer link rows interleaved along a chain direction;

the link plates having a front-side at the front-side of the chain, and a back-side at the back-side of the chain;

the link plates forming two apertures spaced along the chain direction;

the link plates forming two teeth to engage a tooth of said front-side sprocket at an end of the link along the chain direction, to engage a second tooth at another end of the link along the chain direction, and to engage a third tooth intermediate the teeth at the ends of the link plate;

the link plates defining a back-side surface that contacts a portion of the back-side sprocket along at least the majority of a distance substantially equal to a length of the link plates along the chain direction.

6. (Original): The silent chain and sprocket assembly of claim 5 wherein the low profile protrusions of the back-side sprocket are formed by two sprocket surfaces that meet at the protrusion and extend oppositely from each other along the periphery of the back-side sprocket from a first end to a second end a distance that is approximately the length of the back-side surface of the link plates.

7. (Original): The silent chain and sprocket assembly of claim 6 wherein the back-side sprocket surfaces are generally flat.

8. (Original): The silent chain and sprocket assembly of claim 6 wherein the back-side sprocket surfaces are generally flat between the first and second ends, and that extend outwardly from the back-side sprocket near their first and second ends.

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FIRST RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION – REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2004

9. (Previously amended): The silent chain and sprocket assembly of claim 5 wherein the back-side surfaces of the link plates closely conform to the low profile protrusions along the back-side sprocket, to the back-side surfaces of the link plates formed to extend along the periphery of the sprocket to overlies a protrusion.